

England Infected Blood Support Scheme Payments for people infected with Hepatitis C Stage 2

Introduction

The NHS Business Services Authority manages the England Infected Blood Support Scheme.

In this document, we:

- give you details on lump sums and payments for those infected by NHS blood, blood products or tissue
- provide guidance on our policies

Payments

The government [reformed financial and other support for beneficiaries](#) in 2016.

The payment amounts and assessment criteria are subject to future review. This helps us respond to changing needs of beneficiaries and latest clinical evidence.

Beneficiaries can receive the following financial support. It recognises extra costs for individuals as a result of living with Hepatitis C (HCV).

New applicants

You will not have received previous support from the Skipton Fund, MFET or any other UK scheme.

If you have Stage 2 Hepatitis C you'll receive a lump sum of £50,000.

You'll also receive regular payments, which are currently £15,150 a year, plus £505 winter fuel costs.

Members of existing UK schemes

You'll have already received lump sum payments from the Skipton Fund, MFET or another UK scheme.

If you have Stage 2 Hepatitis C, you'll have received a one-off lump sum of £50,000. You'll also receive regular payments, which are £15,150 a year, plus £505 winter fuel

costs.

If you have HIV and Hepatitis C (co-infection), you'll have a lump sum from Macfarlane or Eileen and from Skipton.

You'll also receive regular payments, which are currently £30,300 a year, plus £505 winter fuel costs.

I am a beneficiary of Skipton Fund or MFET

Skipton Fund or MFET beneficiaries from before November 2017 can automatically transfer if they give written consent.

You should have received a letter from schemes you are currently with.

The letter is to let you know about the change in scheme and to ask for your consent to transfer your details to us.

Providing consent

As long as you provide consent, your details move to us.

If you were getting regular payments, you should start to receive these from us.

Not providing consent

If you do not provide consent, you would not be able to receive payments after November.

You do not have the option to remain with the UK schemes and continue to receive payments from them.

Not received a letter

If you do not receive a letter, please get in touch with your scheme(s).

Check they have your current address details.

How we contact you

Once your details come to us, we write to let you know about the scheme.

We tell you how to apply for any extra support you might be eligible for.

Applying for Stage 2 Hepatitis C payments

You may be a claimant with us due to having Stage 1 Hepatitis C.

If you progress to Stage 2 Hepatitis C, you can apply for:

- an extra lump sum of £50,000 (on top of the £20,000 you should already have received)
- regular payments, which are currently £15,150 per year, plus £505 winter fuel costs

Currently, you qualify to receive Stage 2 Hepatitis C support if you have or have had:

- cirrhosis of the liver
- primary liver cancer
- B-cell non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- if you have received, or are on the waiting list for, a liver transplant

To claim this funding, you should complete the Stage 2 Hepatitis C [application form](#).

Copies are [available on our website](#) or you can call or email us to request a copy.

Your doctor's input

Once you have completed your sections of the form, you should pass this to a relevant doctor. They need to provide clinical information to confirm a condition specified above.

This could be a Hepatitis C specialist or another consultant treating your illness.

Assessment and payment

We look at your form and confirm you are eligible for Stage 2 Hepatitis C support.

You will then receive your extra lump sum and your regular payment will start as soon as possible.

Your regular payments will backdate to the date you submitted your application.

Application decisions

We will provide a decision on all applications as soon as possible.

It may take longer if we need to ask you or your doctor for further information.

Infected by someone else

For people infected by someone who received NHS blood, on the balance of probability, you will need to confirm:

- how you contracted the infection
- the infection came from someone infected by NHS blood
- you live or lived in England

Confirm contraction

This could be from:

- sexual transmission
- mother to baby
- accidental needlestick injury

If you contracted the infection from sexual transmission, you must also confirm:

- you were with the person who infected you at the time (either in marriage, civil partnership or long-term relationship and living together)
- your spouse or partner were unaware they had the infection or you both took reasonable precautions to prevent transmission at the time of you contacted the infection

Confirm the infection came from someone infected by NHS Blood

You must confirm the infection came from someone infected by NHS Blood.

The person must receive payments from us or Skipton Fund. They will need to apply first if not.

Confirm you live or lived in England

You must confirm that you live in England or you lived in England before moving out of the UK.

Support available where the infected person died before applying to join the scheme

If the infected person has died before applying to us, you can still apply.

Executor of estate

You can apply if you're either:

- the executor of the person's estate
- acting on behalf of, or with the consent of, the executor

Provide the same information as for Stage 2 Hepatitis C applications.

This is to show the person would have qualified for support if they were still alive.

You'll need to show you are managing the person's estate or have the authority to make a claim on their behalf.

Successful applications

If your application is successful, the estate gets £70,000 if the person had Stage 2 Hepatitis C.

Widowed, civil or long-term partners

You'll be able to apply for extra support, if you are the deceased person's:

- widow
- widower
- civil partner
- long-term partner

There's [guidance for widows, widowers and partners](#) on support and assistance grants.

Other support for infected people

You may also be eligible for support and assistance grants.

Income top-up support

You can apply for income top-up support if you're on a low income.

This is if your household income, including benefits, is below a certain threshold. You can receive payments to top-up your income to that threshold.

The threshold varies depending on the size of your household. It is higher if you have a spouse or partner and children under 21 living with you.

[Contact us](#) to get an application form or download one from the website.

Contact details

If you have any queries or would like an application form sent to you, you can contact us:

Email: nhsbsa.eibss@nhs.net

Telephone: 0300 330 1294

You can write to us at:

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